

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 EB-08 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SSM-03 NEAE-00 DOEE-00 SOE-02 AID-05

CEA-01 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 PM-05

OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 ACDA-12 NRC-05 /130 W

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O 221310Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0575

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 0830

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IS, JO, ENRG, EQUIP

SUBJECT: POWER POLITICS ON THE WEST BANK

REF: STATE 073239

1. NABLUS MUNICIPALITY HAS BEEN IN THE MARKET FOR NEW ELECTRICAL GENERATORS SINCE LATE 1976 WHEN A TOP WAS SUBMITTED VIA 76 JERUSALEM 1492, AND FOLLOWED UP BY AN EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MANAGER OF DE LAVAL TURBINE INC. (76 JERUSALEM 1773 AND PREVIOUS). IN SEPTEMBER 1977 MR. HUIS, THE DE LAVAL REPRESENTATIVE BASED IN AMMAN DISCUSSED THE PROJECT AND CONTACTED THE CONSULATE GENERAL, JERUSALEM BY TELEPHONE, THEN FOLLOWED UP WITH A LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 24, EXPLAINING THE STATUS OF THE PROJECT. IN LATE 1977, THE POST'S COMMERCIAL OFFICER VISITED NABLUS AND DISCUSSED THE PROJECT WITH THE OFFICIALS OF THE MUNICIPALITY, INCLUDING MAYOR BASSAM SHA'KA. AT THAT TIME, THEY STATED THAT THE CONTRACT HAD GONE TO THE MAN COMPANY OF WEST GERMANY, ON

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THE CONDITION THAT THE FIRM OBTAIN THE NECESSARY PERMISSION FOR IMPORTATION FROM THE ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES. DURING VISITS TO NABLUS BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1977 AND FEBRUARY 1978 NABLUS MUNICIPALITY OFFICIALS STATED THAT THE CONTRACT WAS STILL WITH THE MAN COMPANY, BUT THAT ISRAEL AUTHORITIES HAD REFUSED TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE IMPORTATION OF THE EQUIPMENT

AND STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT THE MUNICIPALITY TIE INTO THE ISRAEL GRID.

2. ON MARCH 22, 1978, ZAFER AL-MASRI, THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF NABLUS, STATED THAT THE CONTRACT WAS GIVEN TO THE MAN COMPANY BECAUSE THEY PROMISED BETTER MAINTENANCE FACILITIES, BETTER QUALITY AND OTHER UNSPECIFIED TECHNICAL ADVANTAGES OVER OTHER BIDDERS. HE STATED THAT ISRAELI APPROVAL HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED AND, IN VIEW OF THE CHANGING SITUATION, THE MUNICIPALITY IS REEVALUATING THE BIDS AND MAY RECONSIDER DE LAVAL'S BID ON THE CONDITION THAT DE LAVAL CAN OBTAIN THE IMPORT LICENSE AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS REQUIRED FOR IMPORTATION OF THE QUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO AL-MASRI, THE DE LAVAL REPRESENTATIVE VISITED HIM ABOUT A WEEK AGO TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF DE LAVAL GETTING THE CONTRACT. AL-MASRI COMMENTED THAT "THE SITUATION NOW SEEMS TO BE SLIGHTLY FAVORABLE TO DE LAVAL."

3. HEBRON MUNICIPALITY IS ALSO INTERESTED IN EXPANDING AND/OR REPLACING THEIR CURRENT ELECTRICAL GENERATING EQUIPMENT, BUT HAVE NOT OBTAINED ISRAELI AUTHROIZATION FOR THE PROJECT. IN SEPTEMBER 1977, MR. HUIS OF DE LAVAL MENTIONED THAT HE KNEW OF THE HEBRON PROJECT AND HOPED TO GET THE NABLUS CONTRACT SO HE COULD ALSO GET THE ONE IN HEBRON AS A RESULT OF GOOD PERFORMRANCE IN NABLUS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. BECAUSE NABLUS (AND HEBRON) ARE LOCATED IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED WEST BANK WHICH IS WITHIN THE JERUSALEM CONSULAR DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT SHOULD INCLUDE JERUSALEM AS ACTION ADDRESSEE ON ALL COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING INFORMATION ON WEST BANK MATTERS. CONSULATE GENERAL HANDLES ALL COMMERCIAL DEALINGS WITH WEST BANKERS BY U.S. COMPANIES.

5. EMBASSY TEL AVIV CAN BETTER ANSWER QUESTION POSED REFTEL REGARDING GOI INTENTIONS TO HALT DEVELOPMENT OF ANY DISTINCTIVE WEST BANK INFRASTRUCTURE. BASED ON INFORMATION WE OBTAINED ON WEST BANK, CONSULATE GENERAL PREPARED FAIRLY DETAILED REPORT ON ISRAELI INVOLVE-MENT IN WEST BANK ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY (SEE A-10 DATED APRIL 26, 1977).I
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